



BETULA ASIAN AID FOUNDATION

Newsletter December 2018

Dear friends of Betula,

On the brink of New Year I am happy to present the last newsletter for 2018. It has been a meaningful year for us in which we have been able to change the lives of so many, made possible by your continuous support.

With great expectations I am looking forward to 2019. A year in which we celebrate the 15th anniversary of Betula. An initiative that started in 2004 in the Northern Vietnamese province of Bac Giang by caring and helping children that were blind, hearing impaired, orphan or living with a disability at 3 local centres.

The same initiative is now active throughout Vietnam in several provinces. Over the years we also supported health care projects for children in Sri Lanka and minority children in Northern Thailand. We helped to provide medical equipment for clinics in the Burmese refugee camps, and the families of premature born babies in Laos can still count on us.

A special thanks to our local volunteers and partners without whom all this would not have been possible. I am curious where this journey will bring us over the next 15 years!

Baby Lysa



In one of our previous newsletters we mentioned the 2 year old Lysa who we had examined and was diagnosed with a serious heart condition. Through our network we found an organization that could fund the very costly heart surgery. The additional expenses for traveling, food and accommodation would be covered by Betula.



A synergy that helped baby Lysa get the operation and the care of the family that she needed. We are very pleased to tell you that the operation was successful and that after a period of recovery Lysa is back home and doing well.

Bao's accident



Bao is 47 years old. He and his family used to be boat people in Hue but recently the local authority relocated them to the land. He now lives far from his work. On the way to work Bao had an accident. He has a serious brain injury. Bao has a health insurance but it does not cover all the expenses.

As we were talking to Bao's wife we learned that their son may drop out of school as they can no longer afford it. We will support the family here as well.

Moreover a niece visiting Bao gave birth to a baby boy with a cleft palat. The family has no money to pay for the operation. Through our network we will make sure that the baby gets the operation and support needed.



2 hearts



We are happy to report that the donor supporting the heart medicines for Tha and Dieu is going to help both girls again for another year. In the newsletter of July last year, we mentioned Tha's situation in her thank you letter. This time we want to put Dieu in the spotlight. We can proudly say that Dieu graduated from the University of Da Nang. She studied economics and found a job with a company that manufactures computers.

The medicine helped Dieu to live a normal life and the family never had to make a choice between school or medication because of our support. She is very grateful and will do her best for herself and her family to get a better future. We have 2 more young children who need urgent heart surgery. Help us help these children.

Meet Thong



Thong is the oldest son of a poor farmer family in Phu Loc district about 30 km from Hue city. Thong is hearing impaired. At home he never obeyed his parents and was very hot tempered.

Through your support Thong became a boarding pupil at the Tan Binh centre in Hue City. His attitude changed quickly. He is a very good student and is learning how to read and sign language so he can communicate with friends. He loves to study and his favourite hobbies are soccer and gardening.



Clean water Quang Nam

After the success of previous clean water projects we conducted an additional one in 2018. In cooperation with our local partner VNHIP we provided clean water systems for 2 schools in Nam Giang mountainous district in Quang Nam province. More over a primary school was supported by building a walkway to access the kitchen and water tank.

Dac Pring- Dac Pre Primary School has 284 students and 18 teachers. The school is situated really far up in the mountains. It is about 180 kilometres from Da Nang. The water source is from a mountain stream which is far from the school and is delivered via a pipe system that was built long time ago. The school only has a brick water tank which is very old. It is shared with another secondary school nearby. The children can't use the toilet or wash their hands.

We provided this school with a water tank which has 1000 liters so all students and teachers have enough clean water to use for daily activities such as cooking and hand washing. Water pipes have also been installed to the toilets so they can function properly.



Ca Dy primary school is the main primary school of Ca Dy commune. The school has 395 students and 30 teachers. Last year we provided them with a water tank. This is a boarding school where children have their lunch in the canteen.

The road from the classrooms up to the canteen is dangerous and dirty especially during the rainy season. As the school upgraded the canteen we supported the construction of a small concrete path to access the canteen.

Sick elderly in Tien Giang



We are familiar with some sort of social security in most of the western countries. Even then some painful situations occur. It will be hard to imagine though that many elderly in Vietnam have no income at all nor any kind of care. Especially when they get sick they often have no one to turn to. Strokes and cancer are frequently occurring. Most of the time our help comes too late. But we do feel that even at those times small gestures such as a visit or some money for food or medicine make a meaningful difference.



In short:



We may remember the moving pictures of **Nhan** who was diagnosed with a tumor in her head. Several operations were needed, more than 2 months were spent in a hospital bed. Here she is more than 2 years later. Catching up at school and improving her speech. Great job Nhan!

Anh is almost 1 year old. His father is in prison and his mother is a drug addict and lives on the streets. The boy knows no love or care from his parents. The care now lays with the grandparents who have no work and little income. We support Anh with a monthly cans of milk.



Why would you support us? Betula works at grassroot level and direct. Your donations are completely used to help the beneficiaries. For more information about the programs and projects please visit our website:

www.betula-asianaid.org

Your support is needed and appreciated.

I wish you all a very healthy 2019!

Kees